

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Remarks:

Claims 1-28 remain canceled. Previously presented claims 29 to 31 were amended, in accord with Examiner's suggestions in paragraphs 7 to 10 in the aforementioned final office rejection dated March 4, 2010. Applicants maintain all rights to any subject matter reflected in the canceled claims, which may be claimed in subsequent applications. Claims 29 to 31 are pending in this application.

Arguments:

Applicants thank the Examiner for his office action and for recognizing applicant's contribution by identifying the allowable subject matter.

Previously presented claims 29 to 31 were amended, to overcome the rejections set forth in paragraphs 2 to 6. It is stressed that the claims now relate merely to subject matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable.

Emphasize was made, throughout the amendment of claim 29 and 31, to tie the particular method steps to the particular constituents of the apparatus implemented therefor, in the following manner;

- As to the step of identifying the respiratory activity and cardiac sounds, the definitions of at least one microphone and signal conditioning module of the apparatus of the invention were incorporated into the claim;
- As to the step of temporally segmenting respiratory sounds and sounds, the definition of the feature extraction module of the apparatus was incorporated into the claim;

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- As to the step of extracting stable features of the heart sounds, the definition of the timing analysis module was incorporated into the claim;
- As to the step of determining the extent of temporal variability of groups of synchronized stable sound features, the definition of the temporal segmentation and feature parameter extraction module was incorporated into the claim;

Moreover, at the step of averaging the features of segments of heart sounds with respect to the corresponding respiratory cycle, the definition of “averages in which the temporal variability of said segments is preserved” was added to indicate the transformation of the features of segments of heart sounds to a particular different state.

Furthermore, numerals corresponding to the drawings were added to enhance the comprehensibility of the claims and to emphasize the tying of the particular method steps to the particular constituents of the apparatus implemented therefor.

As to claim 31, the second alternative of “temporally segmenting said respiratory sounds and cardiac electrographic signals”, kindly suggested by the Examiner in in paragraph 4 of the aforementioned final rejection, was opted by the applicants.

Summary:

In light of the amendment the indication of the claimed subject matter as allowable in paragraphs 7 to 10 in the aforementioned final rejection, applicants believe that the rejections presented by the Examiner in the aforementioned final rejection mailed to applicants on March 4, 2010 were overcome. Applicants therefore hope that the Examiner will allow the application with the claims as amended to proceed to acceptance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and issue of a notice of allowance on the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

/ Noam Gavriely /

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